

Message Text

PAGE 01 GENEVA 01898 261250 Z

43

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1898

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PFOR, UN, UR, AORG, OTRA

SUBJECT: DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION COMMITTEE (DOAC): OPENING ROUND

SUMMARY: IN SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS PRECEDING OPENING OF DOAC SESSION, SOVIETS DISPLAYED GENERALLY COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME DISPUTE RE CHAIRMANSHIP HAS ARISEN WITH NON- ALIGNED. END SUMMARY

1. DURING PRE- SESSION US- SOVIET BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON APRIL 24, SOVIET REP (KOLESNIK) SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WERE ANY " FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN US AND SOVIET POSITIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF DEFINITION. HE SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF RESOLVING ANY PROCEDURAL PROBLEMS BEFORE OPENING OF SESSION, AND FLOATED NAME OF FINNISH REP (PROF. BROMS) AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. US DEL AGREED BROMS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. (COMMENT: WE HAD BEEN PLANNING PROPOSE BROMS OURSELVES, AND THEREFORE WELCOMED SOVIET SUGGESTION. END COMMENT.) SOVIETS ALSO AGREED WITH US SUGGESTION THAT WORK OF COMMITTEE SHOULD AGAIN BE CONCENTRATED IN AN INFORMAL WORKING GROUP (AS IN 1972 SESSION) AND THAT A FORMAL WORKING GROUP NOT ESSENTIAL.

2. MEETING WITH WESTERN GROUP A. M. APRIL 25 REVEALED WIDE CONSENSUS CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GENEVA 01898 261250 Z

ON SAME TWO POINTS. HOWEVER, IN INFORMAL NOON SESSION CONVENED BY SOVIET REP, WITH ALMOST ALL DELS IN ATTENDANCE, DISPUTE AROSE REGARDING CHAIRMANSHIP ISSUE. SYRIAN REP, ACTING AS SPOKESMAN FOR NON- ALIGNED

GROUP, SAID HIS GROUP EAGER AVOID LAST YEAR'S PROTRACTED DEBATE ON SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN; HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT "TRADITION" OF SELECTING CHAIRMAN FROM NON-ALIGNED GROUP, AND STRESSED NON-ALIGNED VIEW THAT THIS TRADITION SHOULD BE CONTINUED. US AND UK REPS OBJECTED STRONGLY, CALLING ATTENTION TO UN PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION OF CHAIRMEN AMONG GEOGRAPHICAL GROUPS AND FACT THAT WEST AND OTHERS HAD MADE IT CLEAR IN PAST, EVEN IN YEARS WHEN WE HAD SUPPORTED AFRICAN, ASIAN OR LA CANDIDATE, THAT WE BELIEVED PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION SHOULD APPLY IN LONG RUN. AFTER LENGTHY UNPRODUCTIVE EXCHANGE WE SUGGESTED P. M. MEETING OF REPS OF EACH GEOGRAPHIC GROUP.

3. ON OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT TO AVOID OR LIMIT GENERAL DEBATE AND PROCEED ASAP TO INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS.

4. AT MEETING OF REGIONAL GROUP CHAIRMEN (US - WESTERN GROUP; USSR - EE GROUP; SYRIA - ASIAN GROUP; GHANA - AFRICAN GROUP; AND ECUADOR - LA GROUP) US REP SAID HE HAD SUGGESTED CONSULTATIONS BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO SELECTION OF CHAIRMAN BY CONSENSUS. OTHER REPS AGREED. ECUADORIAN REITERATED NON-ALIGNED ARGUMENT RE "TRADITION" OF NON-ALIGNED CHAIRMANSIP AND ANNOUNCED THAT "NON-ALIGNED" GROUP HAD DECIDED TO PROPOSE SYRIAN REP AS CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSIP. US REP REITERATED EARLIER ARGUMENTS RE PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AND REJECTED PROPOSITION ADVANCED BY ECUADORIAN REP THAT "NON-ALIGNED" WERE IN UNIQUE POSITION TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM OF AGGRESSION. US REGRETTED THAT "NON-ALIGNED" SEEMED TO BE CONFRONTING US WITH DECISION TO PRESS FOR A NON-ALIGNED CHAIRMAN, RATHER THAN REMAINING OPEN TO POSSIBILITY THAT INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE GROUP MIGHT ALSO HAVE DESIRABLE QUALITIES FOR CHAIRMANSIP AND BE WIDELY ACCEPTABLE. SOVIET REP, WHO SAID HIS DEL WAS REALLY NOT CENTRALLY INVOLVED IN THIS PROBLEM, UNHELPFULLY STATED THAT EE GROUP COULD ACCEPT SYRIAN REP AS CHAIRMAN. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON TO SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AND SAID IT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AT LEAST IN OVERALL FORMATION OF THE BUREAU.
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 01898 261250 Z

5. AFTER SOMEWHAT ACRIMONIOUS COMMENTS FROM NON-ALIGNED AS TO WHO WOULD BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR FAILURE OF COMMITTEE TO MOVE ON QUICKLY TO SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, US REP SUGGESTED REPS GO BACK TO RESPECTIVE GROUPS TO DETERMINE REACTIONS TO SYRIAN CANDIDACY AND POSSIBLE ITALIAN CANDIDACY (WHICH WE FLOATED AS AN INFORMAL SUGGESTION AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH ITALIAN DEL IN ORDER TO STAKE OUT HIGHLY PRO-WESTERN POLE OF SPECTRUM SO THAT WE MIGHT LATER FALL BACK TO FINNISH CANDIDACY). IN ADDITION, US REP SUGGESTED EACH REPRESENTATIVE PROVIDE ON VERY INFORMAL BASIS NAMES OF REPS OUTSIDE THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE EVEN THOUGH NOT PREFERRED. GHANAIAAN REP, WHO BECAME VERY HELPFUL AT THIS STAGE, SUGGESTED SIMPLE EXCHANGE OF LISTS OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES WHO MIGHT POSSIBLY BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE

AND ASKED SOVIET REP TO SERVE AS " HONEST BROKER" BETWEEN WESTERN AND NON- ALIGNED GROUPS, WHICH KOLESNIK AGREED TO DO. (WE HAD EARLIER TOLD KOLESNIK OF IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FINDING ACCEPTABLE CHAIRMAN, AND HE APPEARED READY TO WORK HARD FOR SOME COMPROMISE.)

6. AFTER FORMAL OPENING OF SESSION AND IMMEDIATE ADJOURNMENT UNTIL APRIL 26, WE INFORMED WESTERN GROUP OF RESULTS OF MEETING AND PROPOSED SUBMISSION OF FOLLOWING LIST OF REPS AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATES, STRESSING THESE WOULD BE INFORMAL SUGGESTIONS AT THIS STAGE: ITALY, JAPAN, YUGOSLAVIA, FINLAND. GROUP CONCURRED. (JAPAN LATER REQUESTED THAT IT NOT BE ON LIST BUT COULD BE MENTIONED " IN ADDITION".)

7. REGIONAL CHAIRMEN WILL MEET AGAIN 11 A. M. APRIL 26.

8. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CHAIRMANSHIP MORE IMPORTANT THIS YEAR THAN IN PAST IN LIGHT OF WIDELY- SUPPORTED SUGGESTION THAT INFORMAL GROUP REPORT FREQUENTLY AND REGULARLY TO MAIN COMMITTEE. END COMMENT.
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